

CPYRGHT

NOT SO SINISTER AFTER ALL

CIA Chief Makes First Public Speech

By MARY McGRORY
Star Staff Writer

The director of America's cloak-and-dagger operation, the Central Intelligence Agency, made his first public speech last night.

A less sinister figure than Adm. William F. Raborn, a jolly, red-headed sea-dog, could hardly be imagined.

One wonders how far the James Bond rage would have spread had 007 ever been introduced from a banquet table as Raborn was at the Sheraton-Park—as a grower of roses and an organ player.

Nothing the admiral said could have struck terror to the hearts of the enemy. Nor did he babble any secrets.

He was speaking before the National Security Industrial Association, which represents the military-industrial complex feared by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The NSIA, an organization which helps munitions makers and the Department of Defense communicate with each other, was founded by the first Defense secretary, James V. Forrestal, during World War II.

Honored for Polaris Work

Raborn was honored by the association principally for his work on the Polaris missile. He seemed entirely at home at a 73-man head table that glittered with gold braid and tycoons. The atmosphere was sometimes between that of an Annapolis reunion and a convention of the National Association of Manufacturers.

T. R. Berner, an officer of the NSIA, referred to the gathering as "the team which makes our defense program viable."

It is the boast of the NSIA that if a bomb were dropped on its annual banquet, "it would wipe out the high command of the U.S."

To his old friends, Raborn was presented with a phrase that would cause any Soviet secret operative to turn in his invisible inkstand. He was called "a warm, friendly, yet forceful personality."

For his part, the admiral seemed mainly anxious to reassure his old shipmates of Navy and industry, as far as he could, that he was using the old managerial techniques in his new job.

Fights Obsolescence

He disarmed them by saying at the outset that he was not supposed to make speeches in his new job. This appearance had been cleared with the White House.

He made the CIA sound more like IBM than anything else.

He spoke of "the tremendously fine folks" who work with him in secret. He told them that obsolescent programs were being cut back and in some cases cut out.

The biggest administration job is to stop a program once it gets started," said the admiral, a bureaucratic quip that went down very well with the audience.

He told of new techniques for getting information more quickly.

He touched upon the central problem of the Central Intelligence Agency—that it is always suspected and never praised.

He quoted what a former president said to a former director: "Your successes are unheralded—but your failures are trumpeted."

Surely no government agency has so excruciating a public relations problem. Periodically, CIA embarks on a wistful expedition to improve its image. Presumably the admiral's public speech was part of such a venture.

But a query to the public information office—a cruel contradiction in terms—about a report that the CIA was about to enter the mainstream

of American life brought a curt "no comment."

Some members of Congress deplore the secrecy of the espionage operation, although few go so far as to deplore its existence as they often do in the case of the propaganda agency, the U.S. Information Agency.

Several months ago word

got out that some members of the Eastern Liberal Establishment who have traditionally found a home in the CIA found their new leader, Rayborn, somewhat limited in sophistication.

But the Sheraton-Park banquet hall was full of the admiral's fans. They all rushed up afterward to clap him on

the back and call him "Red."

And he said all that anyone could about his new command. It was shrouded in cliché, but it satisfied his audience:

"For my part, I want to as-

sure you that you can be proud of your intelligence community and of the fine, loyal and dedicated men and women who so unselfishly devote their lives to your service."